NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE **MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS**	**HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA:** **Pocatello, Idaho** **REPORT FOR:** **MONTH: January YEAR: 2004**
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	**SIGNATURE:** Sherrie Hebert (In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area) **DATE** February 5, 2004
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

X **An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.**

Precipitation fell early and late in the month of January over the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area. Storms in the first-week maintained above-normal precipitation that resulted from strong storms during the final week of December 2003. However, the combination of high-pressure ridges and low-precip-producing systems caused monthly totals to quickly dwindle and again fall below average during the middle of the month. Fortunately, numerous short-wave systems brought some relief during the final days of the month, however mainly for far eastern and southeastern Idaho leaving much of the HSA dry and again causing precip amounts to drop below normal.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Overall, January precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 68.3% of normal for 35 of 52 reporting stations, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Primarily the eastern Idaho stations received greater than normal precip with ten stations receiving greater than normal. Tetonia and Mackay each had about 155% of normal, with the remaining eight stations between 5% and 33% above normal.

The Pocatello WFO (PIH) received 0.97 inches of precipitation, 85.1% of normal. The below-normal precip again took PIH below normal for the water year from 100.9% in December to 96.8% for January. Malta and Howe received the least of all stations at 15.3% and 17.9% of normal, respectively. Idaho Falls 2ESE and Malad were both approximately 25%.

Mountain snowpack leveled toward average during the dry mid-January period with some SNOTEL sites dropping below average. Again, eastern Idaho mainly remained above normal.

Basin	SWE % Avg	Precip % Avg WY 2004
Big Wood	93	87
Little Wood	102	93
Big Lost	99	90
Little Lost & Birch	89	82
Henrys Fork & Teton	116	104
Snake Basin Above Palisades	100	94
Willow, Blackfoot & Portneuf	110	100

Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service, January 5, 2004.

Reservoirs
The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 35% of capacity, up 7% from January 6, 2004[2].

Reservoir	% of Capacity[1]	% Full Dec	% of Average[1]	% of Last Year[1]
American Falls	48	36	71	87
Henry's Lake	75	74	81	100
Island Park	56	50	74	106
Little Wood	39	30	72	117
Mackay	39	31	63	119
Magic	11	9	24	110
Oakley	12	9	31	65
Palisades	33	28	44	92
Ririe	36	34	80	87
Lake Walcott	38[2]	33	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) Natural Resources Conservation Service, January 5, 2004;
(2) US Bureau of Reclamation, January 6, 2004.

Drought
Early month precipitation allowed for improved National Drought Monitor rankings in much of eastern Idaho. The D4 region, "Exceptional", was reduced with much of the region now depicted in the D3, "Extreme", range. However, with mountain snowpack trending toward and below average and long-term drought indicators still holding strong, further improvement in the Drought Monitor rankings is not likely unless conditions turn promising.

Summary of Hydrologic Products Issued
No hydrologic products were issued for the month of January.

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